Please add the following new claim 26.

--26. A matrix comprising solid space and interstitial space wherein said interstitial space comprises an interstitial polymer network comprising a functional group comprising a reactive moiety.--

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 9. Claim 26 has been added and incorporates the limitation of claim 10. Accordingly, the interstitial polymer network comprises a functional group which comprises a member of a binding pair (claim 1) or a reactive moiety (claim 26).

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by or in the alternative under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Good or Fuller.

Each of Good and Fuller disclose chromatographic columns containing cross-linked polymeric material bonded to discrete particulate packing material either directly or *via* a coupling agent. In Fuller, the cross-link polymeric material (the partitioning agent) is set forth at column 4, lines 35-61. Each of the disclosed polymers are hydrophobic in nature and accordingly designed for reverse phase chromatography. In Good, the partitioning agent is a polymeric material as set forth at column 4, line 74, through column 5, line 51. As with Fuller, the disclosed polymers are hydrophobic in nature and are useful in reverse phase chromatography.

The claims presently require an interstitial polymer network which contains a functional group which comprises a member of a binding pair or a reactive moiety. Since Fuller and Good do not disclose such additional groups, they do not anticipate the claims.

In order to render a claim obvious, all of the elements of the claim must be present in the cited art. Here, Fuller and/or Good do not disclose the additional functional groups as set forth in the amended claims. Therefore, they do not render the amended claims obvious.

Claim 7 is rejected as being obvious over Good or Fuller as applied to claims 1-6 and 8 and further in view of Schneider. Schneider refers to the preparation of properties of bonded phase packing. The "capping" referred to by the Examiner is done primarily with trimethylchlorosilane.